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ALL-VOLUNTEER FORCE: Pay Incentives

Proposed Legislation

Defense Moves For Increased Bonuses To Ensure Adequate Manning

The Department of Defense is proposing to Congress pay legislation in the form of landmark bonuses to ensure adequate manning of the Uniformed Services in an all-volunteer environment.

Main features of the proposal are:

• **Enlistment Bonus.** Expand the current authority for combat arms recruits to include other skills as well. Extend the current authority, which expires July 1, 1973, indefinitely and make it permanent authority.

• **Selected Reserve Forces Bonus.** Authorizes enlistment and reenlistment bonuses for members of the National Guard and Reserve Forces. Payment calls for $2,200 to some skilled persons who obligate themselves for six years and $1,100 to other skilled persons.

• **Officer Retention Bonus.** Authorize payment of a bonus to officers in special skills or professions who are in critical supply. One such bonus applies to medical officers and would authorize $17,000 a year for six years to those selected who would commit themselves beyond their obligated service—in effect, a wage differential putting military physicians in the $30,000 to $45,000 annual wage group. Another bonus applying to such critical skills as nuclear-trained submarine officers and lawyers authorizes up to $4,000 a year for those who agree, in writing, to stay beyond their obligation.

• **Selective Reenlistment Bonus.** Amend present legislation to authorize a more flexible use of current enlisted retention incentives, by paying a bonus in selected skills only; increasing the ceiling on bonus amounts; permitting a bonus to be paid at other points in an enlisted career in addition to the first enlistment.

The proposed legislation goes under the name of the "Uniformed Services

(Continued On Page 2)

COMMANDERS DIGEST

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE • WASHINGTON, D.C.

Vol. 11, No. 24 **April 13, 1972**

DRUG ABUSE: Alcoholism

DoD Directive 1010.2

Alcoholism Termed 'Disease'; New Rules Outline Treatment Programs

In a "new look" for the Department of Defense, the largest Government Agency recognizes alcoholism as a disease.

In making the announcement, it was explained that this is a major change in policy and a vitally important one, in introducing treatment methods that will restore the alcoholic to a useful place in society.

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health and Environment) Dr. Richard S. Wilbur said on March 7, 1972, that a new DoD Directive (1010.2) sets up policies for "attempting to prevent alcohol abuse and alcoholism and for treating and rehabilitating" individuals.

In the past, Defense's health expert said, the emphasis in the military as far as alcoholism was concerned was to punish or eliminate individuals with a minimum effort to rehabilitate them. Under the new policy, the Services have been directed to put their emphasis on therapeutic and medical programs which will return alcoholics to useful Service jobs. It was emphasized that alcoholism is a unique disease in that it is preventable and treatable, and the individual afflicted has a responsibility to actively participate in a treatment and rehabilitation program.

The degree to which he does will determine to a great extent the amount of success he will experience. It is important to understand that a person is not given monetary compensation or a pension for alcoholism.

Programs to Aid

Dr. Wilbur also pointed out that the

(Continued On Page 2)

ALCOHOLISM DIRECTIVE

(Continued From Page 1)

Directive draws a sharp line between alcoholism itself and abuse of alcohol which leads to misconduct. The Directive states that alcoholism, in itself, should not be grounds for disciplinary action. However, an individual's demonstrated conduct resulting from his use or abuse of alcohol should be evaluated, with necessary action taken as required.

At the same time, Dr. Wilbur said, the new Directive establishes two areas of responsibility.

The first area is that of the Military Departments which must set up programs to treat and rehabilitate members who abuse alcohol, as well as programs to educate all personnel on the prevention of alcohol abuse.

The second area of responsibility rests on the shoulders of the individuals concerned. They must realize their need for treatment and take advantage of the programs that will be offered or are already in effect.

Continuing with his comments on the Directive, Dr. Wilbur said that it is important to note that alcoholism will not be considered disqualifying for further service when it is arrested or where the patient is actively participating in a treatment program and is demonstrating progress.

He added that in cases of arrested alcoholism or where men or women who abuse alcohol are taking part in Service treatment programs, their promotion opportunities will not be jeopardized. The Directive also states that administrative action, such as suspension of security clearance or other flagging actions, should be reviewed as soon as possible for reinstatement in the case of a recovered alcoholic.

Army Brigadier General John K. Singlaub, Dr. Wilbur's Deputy for Drug and Alcohol Abuse, stressed the fact that this is not a temperance movement in any sense of the word. It is a maximum effort to eliminate the abuse of alcohol through education. It places the primary responsibility for treatment on the individual. Those who participate and progress will be able to continue in the Service. Those who do not participate or make no appreciable effort to improve will be eliminated from the Service through administrative channels. Such a person will be eliminated because of ineptness, unreliability, and failure to follow instructions. Alcoholism is not physically unfitting for duty because it can be arrested.

Treatment will be available to everyone; the individual who is having difficulty need only seek the treatment and become actively involved in it.

The new emphasis on the identification, treatment and rehabilitation of the alcoholic is part of a nation-wide effort.

Recently President Richard Nixon called alcoholism a ". . . tragic and costly illness which touches every community in our land. . . ."

At the same time the President outlined some of the efforts on the part of the Government. The recently established National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism has a nationwide public education program readied for radio and television, according to the Chief Executive, and supports various model treatment projects where community leaders can learn how to develop similar projects for their own cities. At the same time, the Veterans Administration will increase the number of its alcohol dependent treatment units to 56 in Fiscal Year 1973.

At a Department of Defense news briefing held on Mar. 7, it was pointed out that individuals going through the treatment programs that will be set up by the Services will be relieved from normal duties. General Singlaub explained that the Navy has had an alcohol rehabilitation center operating for some time at Long Beach, California, and that the Air Force has three such centers operating: at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio, Lackland Air Force Base in Texas and at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida.

He added that the Army has handled its alcohol efforts through normal hospital programs.

Throughout the Services, individuals undergoing treatment and rehabilitation will be encouraged to take part in the activities of such organizations as Alcoholics Anonymous.

PAY LEGISLATION

(Continued From Page 1)

Special Pay Act of 1972." It is estimated that its passage will increase the Department of Defense budget for military compensation by $198.7 million in FY 1973 and to a high of $348.5 in FY 76.

Army Major General Leo E. Benade, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Military Personnel Policy), told a March 29 Pentagon news conference that the incentive most suitable for DoD needs is a bonus paid to specific volunteers in return for a service commitment for a stipulated number of years.

As he elaborated, "Bonuses offered can be readily started, stopped, or modified to reflect changing needs of the Armed Forces for quantity, quality, and experience level of members in specific skills. While bonuses are a traditional military compensation tool, our recent experience with a variable bonus applied in the flexible manner envisioned for the future has proven most successful."

The general also pointed out the bonus is attractive to the individual because it is offered as a lump sum of sizeable amount. In that light, the bonus may be viewed as a prepaid wage differential based on qualifications of the individual and the needs of the Armed Forces.

Gen. Benade hailed the recent increase of military pay rates as reasonably competitive with pay in the civilian economy, but he said DoD needs an incentive over and above current pay levels to attract and retain members with special qualifications and skills.

COMMANDERS DIGEST

A publication of the Department of Defense intended to provide official information to commanders and key personnel on matters related to Defense policies and interests, and to create better understanding and teamwork within the Department of Defense.

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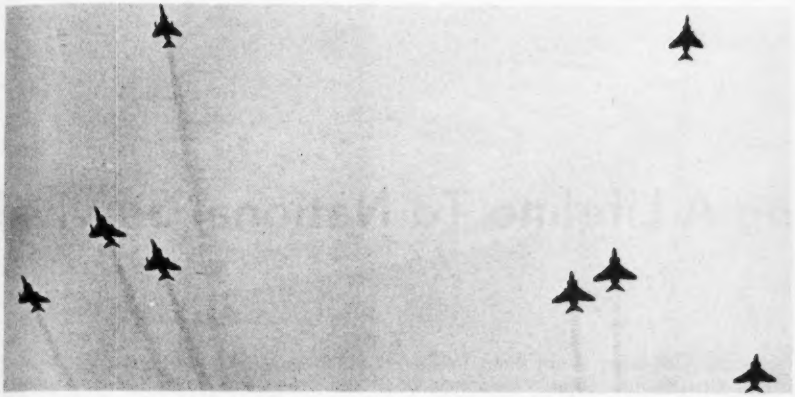

'WEEK OF CONCERN' CEREMONIES. A joint U.S. Navy/U.S. Air Force "Missing Wingman Formation" flyover (above photo) streaks above the Pentagon March 29 during ceremonies commemorating the National Week of Concern for U.S. Prisoners of War and Missing in Action (PW/MIA) in Southeast Asia. Following the formal affair, some of the more than 100 PW/MIA families and 4,000 military and Government employes who attended the ceremonies gathered for a coffee-and-doughnut session with Department of Defense officials. Mrs. Stephen Mehallis (right photo), sister-in-law of MIA Air Force Major Kenneth D. Robinson, and her daughters, Michelle, 5½, and 3½, chat with Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird. (Official DoD Photos)

At Pentagon's River Entrance

Thousands Gather To Remember, Honor PW/MIAs And Families

The more than 1,600 American servicemen who are prisoners of war or missing in action (PW/MIA) in Southeast Asia were honored by the Department of Defense in a simple and solemn ceremony on March 29, the mid-point of the National Week of Concern proclaimed for the period March 26-April 1 by President Nixon at the request of the Congress.

More than 4,000 military personnel and civilian employes, along with some 100 members of PW/MIA families residing in the Washington, D. C. area, gathered to pay tribute to the men and to express the deep and ever-present concern of the DoD and the United States for their fate.

Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird and Admiral Thomas H. Moorer, USN, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, were keynote speakers, both expressing abiding faith and great hope that the prisoners and their families will be reunited soon. Key representatives from the U. S. Congress were also present for the ceremony, held on the Pentagon's River Plaza.

PW/MIA family members were given special recognition for their courage and gallantry by Dr. Roger E. Shields, Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Security Affairs).

Secretary Laird pointed out the special appropriateness of the Week of Concern and the DoD ceremony during Holy Week.

"This is a season of the year," he said, "when we feel so deeply this spirit of faith and hope because this week leads to the joy of Easter. Our faith and hope are strong. One reason for this is that we are inspired by the resolute and steadfast courage shown by families of the men whom we remember here today . . . ."

The Secretary said that through the ceremony he again assured fellow Americans that "our prisoners of war and missing in action will continue to be our Nation's concern and the concern of men and women of good will around the world."

Admiral Moorer, in his tribute to all American PW/MIAs in SEA, said, "As a Nation, to unify our thoughts and actions in behalf of these brave men and their families, this call to assert our opposition to the enemy's treatment of our missing and captured is one which all Americans should answer earnestly. Let us put forth a united expression of our loyalty to those who wait and hope, so that their faith and courage may find new strength.

"Our concern for these men," he continued, "has been expressed to the enemy in every way possible. Our Nation's Government has never ceased in its efforts to impress upon the North Vietnamese and the Viet Cong their responsibility to honor the rules of the Geneva Convention which they signed in 1957. Their response to date has been discouraging.

"Their refusal to honor these rules, their refusal to exchange their own prisoners for our men, and their refusal to

(Continued on Page 7)

Military Sealift Command

Seapower: Ensuring A Lifeline To National Survival

The growing reliance upon the shipping industry to obtain energy fuels and strategic resources from foreign countries, so that the U.S. can maintain its technological superiority and continue to lead the Free World, is making this Nation more dependent that ever before on its seapower. In fact, it is because of this growing reliance that the United States is fast becoming an "island nation."

This was the summarized opinion of Rear Admiral John D. Chase, Commander, Military Sealift Command, when he spoke Feb. 17 before members of the Washington Chapter of the Propeller Club of the United States.

Adm. Chase stressed that the reason the U.S. maintains its position as a superpower is because of its strong maritime ties with friends and allies in the world community. The ability of the U.S. to project national strength and to influence other nations is based upon its seapower capability.

"The primary point I would like to make, clearly and strongly," the admiral asserted, "concerns the 'why' of those facts. The truth is that we already are, or soon will become, an 'island nation.'

"Obviously, I am not using the term 'island nation' in a geographical sense. My point is that we are becoming more and more dependent upon seapower to insure our survival."

Two Examples

Citing Britain and Japan as two examples of countries that are almost totally dependent upon shipping for their economic well-being if not their survival. Adm. Chase emphasized, "That type of dependency is being created right now, in the United States." To illustrate in just one area, he pointed to the reliance of the U.S. on foreign sources of energy to fuel the economy.

The gross energy requirements of the United States are growing much faster than are new U.S. discoveries of oil, or developments of additional sources of power, he noted. For example, with only six per cent of the world's population, the U.S. consumes 32 per cent of its energy. Likewise, U.S. consumption of energy will increase by 50 per cent during this decade. Imports of crude oil, which now account for 25 per cent of U.S. requirements, will rise to 50 per cent by the 1980-to-1985 time frame.

PERSONAL ATTENTION. Navy Rear Admiral John D. Chase, left, chats with Army Lieutenant Colonel William B. Crowell, a battalion commander, aboard the "USNS Corpus Christi Bay." Adm. Chase is a frequent visitor to the ships under his command which traverse the globe to supply members of the U.S. Armed Forces.

The admiral told his audience that seapower includes several integral elements:

—We must have a strong Navy.

—We must be able to depend upon the Navy to keep the sea lanes open.

—We must have a Navy as an instrument of national military policy.

—We must have a Navy as an instrument of economic policy.

—We must have a Navy as an instrument of diplomatic policy.

—In time of national interest, we rely upon the Navy to project military strength.

The U.S. Merchant Marine falls into a similar category, he said. The merchant marine is more than a means of carrying U.S. commerce. It also:

—Provides a means of supporting foreign policy.

—Delivers essential raw materials and fuel.

—Provides peacetime logistics support for the Navy.

—Provides military sealift.

—Represents a combat augmentation force.

Seapower Is More Than Ships

Noting that seapower includes more than just Navy ships and merchant marine vessels, Adm. Chase said the U.S. must also have ports and port facilities to sustain its seapower force. It requires shipbuilding capability to maintain—and

HEADING TO SEA. The "Atlantic Forest" is similar to those Military Sealift Command vessels under charter which are used to supply U.S. forces throughout the world. Here the vessel is loaded with barges, each carrying hundreds of tons of materiel. Upon arriving at a destination, each barge is lowered into the water by a crane and then shunted by tugboats to nearby docks, pushed onto beaches, or up rivers to inland points.

(Official Military Sealift Command Photos)

to expand—the merchant marine and Navy. Most important of all are the skilled and dedicated men who build ships, man them and support them. The U.S. must have skilled seafarers, professional shipbuilders and dedicated longshoremen, specialists in cargo documentation and handling, and union and management officials who provide the leadership which allows effective utilization of resources. Beyond that, he continued, seapower is a natural extension of U.S. overall technology. It ties together manufacturing, marketing and distribution systems. It allows the implementation of diplomatic, economic, scientific and military policies.

The admiral then asked, "Where do we stand? What is our present status as a world seapower?" Answering these questions, he said Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt Jr., USN, Chief of Naval Operations, has listed four factors which have a great impact upon current naval posture of the United States. These are:

—Soviet achievement of nuclear parity.

—Increased need for a strong Navy in consonance with President Richard Nixon's foreign policy doctrine.

—Spectacular growth of the Soviet Navy.

—Decline in numbers of ships, aircraft and people in our own Navy.

Moving Ahead

These four factors make the Navy's job tougher, he stressed, but it is moving ahead on several fronts to help maintain the U.S. position as the world's number one military seapower.

The Merchant Marine. About 25 years ago, the U.S. had a merchant fleet of 3,500 vessels, all built in American shipyards. Today, that fleet is less than one-sixth as large and there are fewer than 600 active ocean-going ships. And, the U.S. fleet carries less than five per cent of this Nation's trade.

Port Facilities. The U.S. has no ports capable of handling 100,000-ton tankers which now sail the seaways. By contrast, Europe has 50 ports which can handle such ships. In addition, 50 per cent of those ports can handle 200,000-ton jumbo tankers.

Support Facilities. Few ports are equipped to handle container ships because of the heavy investment required. Other ports are losing business. Current and potential results—in peace and war—were vividly illustrated in Southeast Asia. It took several years to build the kind of facilities needed to handle container ships there. It may not always be possible to have the luxury of adequate time. To offset this, the Military Sealift Command must focus much of its effort on helping develop ships and systems that can operate in underdeveloped ports and over beaches.

60 Per Cent Operational

Shipbuilding. Today, U.S. shipyards are operating at 60 per cent of capacity. The result is that trained workers are finding jobs in other markets. Once established in communities where they have a better long-term economic future, they are unlikely to return to an industry where the employment picture fluctuates more rapidly.

Work Force. A few years ago, there were 56,000 sea-going jobs. Today, there are less than 26,000. And, the near-term picture indicates a further decline. This decline is the inevitable result of a cutback in the numbers of merchant fleet ships, an increase in automation aboard new ships, and the strong competition which foreign ships offer. Cheaper to build and cheaper to operate, foreign ships provide overwhelming competition.

Two Obvious Answers

Adm. Chase emphasized that there are two obvious answers to circumvent these problems: 1) The U.S. must retrain its

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SEALIFT COMMAND

(Continued From Page 5)

labor force to make its members able to perform new jobs, to handle new equipment and systems—in and out of the maritime industry, and 2) The U.S. must build new merchant ships—ships able to compete for a larger share of world commerce, if it is to provide steady employment opportunity to maintain the trained and available work force that seapower requires.

"Our alternative to success in those areas," the admiral said, "is to abdicate our dominance of the seas. The inevitable result to such abdication would be dependence upon foreign ships and crews to protect and project our national interests. If we must rely on other nations to sustain—or augment—our own seapower, we voluntarily make ourselves a hostage of those nations for our very survival. I can think of no more frightening possibility."

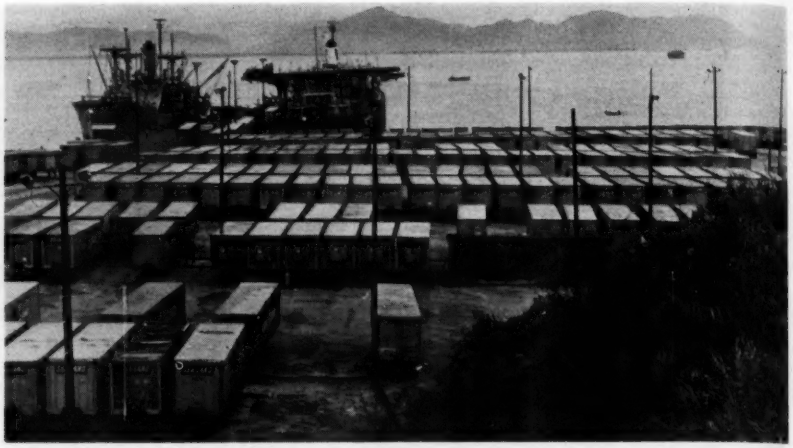
Although none of the varied elements of seapower are as healthy as they ought to be, much is being done toward that aim. For instance, impact of the Merchant Marine Act of 1970 is beginning to make itself felt.

"Lash" Vessels

Orders have been placed for "Lash" vessels, for oil-bulk-ore carriers and for tankers. Arrangements are being made which could result in the construction of six liquefied natural gas (LNG) carriers at a cost of more than $420 million. In fact, Andrew E. Gibson, Assistant Secretary of Commerce (Maritime Affairs), has labeled this the largest single shipbuilding proposal of all time. He also indicated that the program may well spark more than $1.8 billion in new construction next year.

This means new jobs and a more stable work force in the shipyards and at sea. The Navy is also building new ships and is already testing hydrofoils and has new combatant ships on order. In addition, it is moving ahead in anti-submarine warfare, in employment of helicopters, use of smaller ships, and in a number of other areas.

The Military Sealift Command has begun a number of programs designed to support the merchant marine and thus help improve its contingency capability.



SHIPPING CONTAINERS. Cargo is moved to Vietnam direct from field or factory in containers under MSC shipping and container agreements with U.S. commercial shipping companies, such as Sea-Land. The firm provides through service for military cargo, delivering it "to the door" of the user in Vietnam. (Official Military Sealift Command Photos)

Construction of Ships

It also has pioneered the build-and-charter concept which calls for the construction of ships to meet military needs by private investors. This way, the Military Sealift Command would agree to charter such ships for five-year periods, with options up to 20 years. Cash flow from the charter rate would provide a basis for commercial expansion for the operators. At the same time, the admiral said, the Military Sealift Command would have the service of ships it needs for military support and be able to control their operations.

"We soon hope," he continued, "to secure the services of nine 25,000-ton tankers in this manner. They would replace 14 World War II T-2 tankers and would be manned by union crews. There is no reason why we could not secure cargo ships this way, including ships of existing design such as 'Lash' and 'Seabee,' roll-on-roll-off ships or other versatile types."

The command is also involved on a number of other programs which indicate that industry-Government cooperation is steadily improving. For instance, Military Sealift Command now has 143 commercial ships committed for sealift augmentation in an emergency. More than 18,000 containers, plus 6,500 trailers and chassis to move them, also have been committed by the maritime industry for wartime use.

Adm. Chase asserted, "The Soviet Union is finding ways to use her merchant fleet to support her national policy. Merchant ships are used for military and diplomatic, as well as for economic purposes. Soviet fleet support in the Indian Ocean and statistics illustrating Soviet trade with East Africa in Soviet ships are just two examples."

In conclusion, the Admiral said, the Military Sealift Command intends to do all it can to improve the present situation, and to strengthen its capability to carry out its Defense mission. To do this, it must:

—Develop better means of using merchant marine resources.

—Work out ways to modify existing or contemplated designs of merchant ships to meet military requirements with minimum degradation of economic competitiveness.

—Provide the building of commercial ships which can be used to support those military requirements.

—Improve job opportunities for merchant seamen, and for those workers who are involved in ship building, ship maintenance, and handling traffic.

—Develop better liaison and working agreements with unions and with management so that we can work together to obtain mutual objectives.

"At stake," Adm. Chase told his audience, "is our continuing security, our national survival. We can ill afford to ignore the call."

WEEK OF CONCERN

(Continued From Page 3)

allow internment of all prisoners in a neutral country, all reveal an attitude of inhumanity which is difficult to understand and which we have found to be impossible to deal with in a rational way."

In emphasizing earlier in the ceremony that the United States continues to demand that the rights of prisoners be respected by their captors, Secretary Laird listed the following as particularly deplorable violations of the Geneva Convention in which the other side persists: 1) refusal to allow for inspection of the prison camps by a responsible and impartial international agency, 2) refusal to permit American prisoners of war regular communications with their families, 3) refusal to allow repatriation of the seriously sick and wounded, and 4) refusal to provide official identification of all who are imprisoned and to give an accounting for the missing about whose fate they have knowledge.

The enemy's continued failure to provide this information means that the tragic uncertainty with which some American PW/MIA families have lived for more than seven years cannot be terminated.

"I assure the relatives and loved ones of those in whose name we meet today," Secretary Laird said, "that our determination will not wane. With the President, I ask all Americans to join with us in prayer for the day when they are reunited with their loved ones."

In his tribute to American PW/MIAs in SEA, Admiral Moorer emphasized that "the enemy must never be allowed to doubt, in any way, the unyielding determination of all Americans to make the safe return of our men an accomplished reality.

"During this week of national concern, as we unite in resolution and prayer," he continued, "I urge all of my fellow Americans to make a special effort to extend our deepest sympathy and encouragement to the families of these brave men whose lives and safety are foremost in our minds—they will never be forgotten."

As he urged all Americans to extend sympathy and encouragement to the families of "these brave men whose lives and safety are foremost in our minds," the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff closed his tribute by saying that American PW/MIAs will never be forgotten—"when duty called, these men did not slip away to the safety of some foreign country but rather, with courage and without hesitation, joined the hottest part of the battle."

In introductory remarks to recognize PW/MIA families present, Dr. Shields pointed out that similar observances were being held by civilian and military members of the Department of Defense throughout the world and that "we are expressing, together with millions of other citizens, our support and concern for our men who are held prisoner or missing in Southeast Asia. We do this, as the President states in his Proclamation, with a determination to persist in the effort to secure fair treatment and to obtain the freedom of these men."

It is particularly fitting, he said, that personnel of the Department of Defense,

(Continued On Page 8)

PW/MIA PRAYER DURING SPECIAL DOD "WEEK OF CONCERN" CEREMONY

Almighty and eternal God, bless us now as we meet in care, concern and intercession for those of our fellows, Prisoners of War or Missing in Action in strange and foreign lands.

Make us instruments of your peace to those who know endless days of confinement and to those who wait in separation and loneliness.

Where there is darkness, reinforce our conviction that in the scheme of things yours is the victory. Let them find meaning in the maze of suffering. In their darkest days, bring the light of wisdom, the assurance that their prayers have risen to you, the conviction that they are not alone.

Where there is despair, bring your healing in sickness, your presence in solitude, your spirit in discouragement. May they know that when our hope fades, your grace begins anew.

When there is doubt, may your presence bring reassurance that they are very much on our minds and hearts. Through the pathways of the soul, let them not lose sight of you. Enfold them in the strong bonds of faith—yes, fill us all with faith.

Renew us all in hope, Our Father. Revive our spirits and quicken our hands to apply ourselves to those things which we may do to hasten their return. Guide our President and all men of leadership and good will that their deliberations may be fruitful; that those we hold in our hearts this morning may soon stand tall among us once again in the sunlight of freedom, comforted in the warmth of our love.

AMEN

Major General Roy M. Terry, USAF
Chairman, Armed Forces Chaplains Board

Secretary Laird Salutes PW/MIA Wives, Families

Four wives of U.S. servicemen listed as prisoners of war or missing in action (PW/MIA) in Southeast Asia were saluted on March 27 by Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird in his remarks following the U.S. Readiness Command's exercise Gallant Hand '72. Mr. Laird referenced the National Week of Concern for PW/MIAs in North Vietnam, South Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos.

In stating the national and DoD position on the prisoner of war/missing in action issue, Secretary Laird said, "Ambassador Porter [U. S. Ambassador William J. Porter, Chief of the U. S. Delegation at the Paris talks] last week in Paris made a very thorough and, I believe, important statement when he made it crystal clear that the Geneva Conventions are not subject to negotiation; that these Geneva Conventions are a part of international law, and that the enemy has agreed to abide by these Conventions, and thus far, they have shown no indication to abide by them in any respect."

WEEK OF CONCERN

(Continued From Page 7)

who have a special bond with these men and their families, gather in the Pentagon observance "to reaffirm our determination that every possible effort will be made in their behalf. Hopefully, by our actions, we shall hasten the day of their safe return to home and freedom."

In recognizing families present—and through them, PW/MIA families throughout the country—Dr. Shields said, "I have met with a great many of these family members. I can only classify them —the way they have borne up during their difficult ordeal, the efforts they have made—as one of the most gallant and courageous groups that I have ever met. They deserve not our pity, nor our sympathy. They deserve and have a right to our admiration and our support."

The United States Marine Band provided appropriate musical selections, including a musical prelude, the National Anthem, and "America the Beautiful."

The Chairman of the Armed Forces Chaplains Board, Major General Roy M. Terry, USAF, offered the PW/MIA prayer for the ceremony (see box, page 7). The invocation and benediction were offered by Major General Gerhardt W. Hyatt, Chief of Army Chaplains, and Captain James J. Killeen, Deputy Chief of Navy Chaplains, respectively.

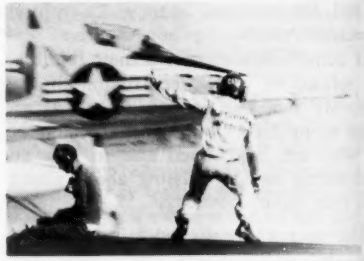
Preceding the benediction by Chaplain Killeen, U.S. Navy and Air Force jet aircraft flew twin missing-wingman formations over the assembly gathered at the Pentagon entrance overlooking the Potomac River. Long a tradition with men who fly to honor their absent comrades, a missing-wingman flyover starts with the four-plane formation, but on signal one wingman pulls away to leave the symbolic empty place for a comrade.

In describing the special flyover by Navy and Air Force planes, Air Force Brigadier General Daniel James Jr., Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs), said, "This aerial salute is a tribute to all our men who are prisoners of war or missing in action . . . and their families. We pledge that these gallant men will never be forgotten and we will not rest until they are once again home . . . free men at last."

ARMED FORCES INITIATIVES

DOMESTIC ACTION. A Camel provided a hotel for fish? The Camel, an open, non-self-propelled lighter barge of steel construction, belonged to the Naval Shipyard at Long Beach, Calif., but was no longer useable for its intended purposes. Ultimately, it was transferred to the California State Fisheries Laboratory. It was later decided to scuttle the barge in a pre-determined location at sea where it will serve as an artificial reef to improve the off-shore habitat for reef-dwelling game fish. Towed by Navy Yard personnel out to sea, holes were chopped in the bottom, and it flooded and sank. Today it rests off the California coast, an integral part of an on-going research program into the environmental and behavioral patterns of coastal sports fish.

ENVIRONMENT. Can anything be done to lessen the noise that plagues Navy personnel? The answers are being sought by Navy doctors and scientists in California during Project Ping, an operation that got its name from the sound made by a ship's radar. The pings were just part of a collection of tape-recorded noises (including the noise made by the takeoff of a Navy carrier jet aircraft, such as in the photograph at the right) played continuously to enlisted volunteers during a two-month test. Evaluation of the data may make possible the achievement of more acceptable noise levels on Navy ships.



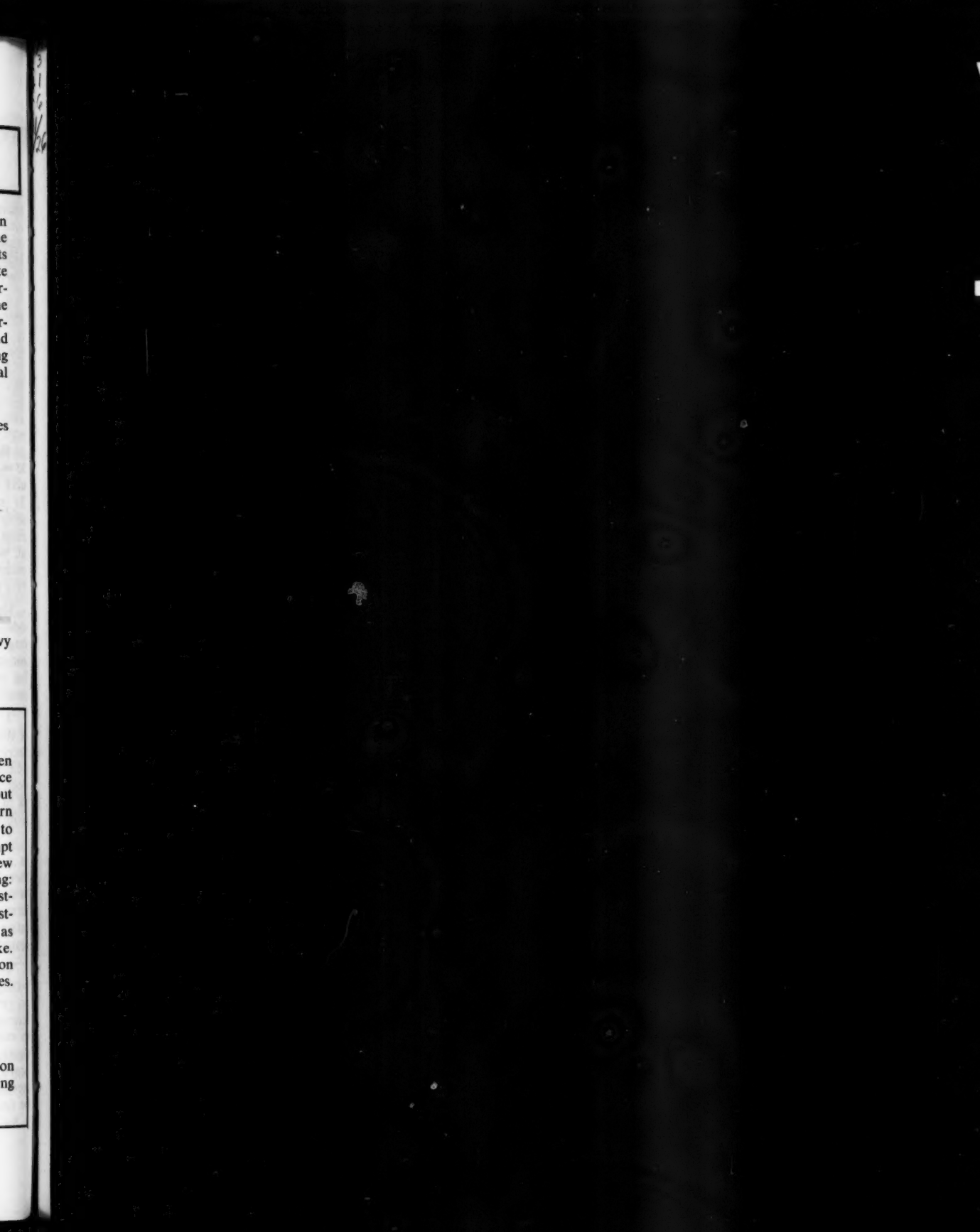
STOP PRESS!

FOR UNIT VOTING OFFICERS

VOTING "ACTION LINE." An "Action Line" telephone circuit has been established in the Defense Department's Federal Voting Assistance Task Force office, providing quick assistance to military unit voting officers throughout the world. Manned during normal working hours (8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Eastern Standard Time), the service also features an automatic answering device to record calls during non-duty hours. Unit voting officers can expect prompt replies—either by telephone or by airmail letter—to all queries. The new service will provide assistance in three major areas, officials said, including: 1) Information in registration and ballot request procedures; 2) Special assistance involving coordination with individual States; and 3) Coordination assistance with unit voting representatives regarding materiel problems, such as postcard ballot application forms, voting information booklets and the like. The Voting Task Force "Action Line" number: (202) 694-4777, or Autovon 224-4777. The service will automatically answer on one of several open lines.

To expedite the use of the Voting "Acting Line," the caller should:

- Have his question already written, so he can pass it on rapidly;
- Have his complete mailing address ready to give if requested; and
- Have his complete telephone number ready to give if requested.

By having such information available, either for recording or to pass on personally, the caller will make the lines more rapidly available for other voting counselors.

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